

SYMPHONY HALL  
BOSTON

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

BY THE

HANDEL AND HAYDN  
SOCIETY

THOMPSON STONE, Conductor



MONDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER TWENTY-THIRD, 1929

# CHRISTMAS ORATORIO—John Sebastian Bach

(PARTS I and II)

## SELECTIONS from "MESSIAH" . . . Handel

### SOLOISTS

CLAIRE MAENTZ, SOPRANO

MARIE MURRAY, CONTRALTO

GEORGE BOYNTON, TENOR

WALTER KIDDER, BASS

*Boston Symphony Orchestra Players*

---

### FOREWORD

The Christmas Oratorio of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is perhaps the most universal of all his works in its appeal. In it we see Bach, not as the austere and tragic figure of later years, struggling in a losing race with blindness, to set down the themes crowding imperiously upon his soul, but rather do we know him here as the father in mellow middle years retelling the Christmas story for his children. There is in it rich melodic charm, a gracious simplicity and a commanding serenity.

Bach wrote the series of six cantatas which make up the Christmas Oratorio, for separate church festivals and it was not until later years that he welded them into a whole. As these cantatas were first heard in St. Thomas' Church in Leipzig, the first three fell on the three days of the Christmas celebration, 1734, the next on New Year's Day, 1735, the next on the following Sunday and the last on the day of Epiphany. Of the fifty-one numbers which now make up the oratorio, Bach borrowed seventeen from his secular dramatic works written in honor of royal ceremonials. It is believed that during Bach's time there were still remnants of dramatic Christmas rites in the Leipzig churches, the influence of which is strongly felt in this work. The chorales in the Christmas Oratorio are particularly lovely, especially those interspersed with orchestral interludes. In the first cantata, Bach has created the chorale of Advent upon the theme from the St. Matthew Passion, a prophecy of the suffering of Jesus. The B minor Mass had been begun, the Passions and many of the cantatas had been engraved upon their copper plates when the six parts of the Christmas Oratorio were set forth, a work of the master in his prime.

# MESSIAH

By Handel

## CHORUS

4

The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

2

## TENOR RECITATIVE

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God;  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem;  
And cry unto her that her welfare is accomplished,  
That her iniquity is pardoned.  
The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert and highway for  
our God.

3

## TENOR AIR

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the  
crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

5

## BASS RECITATIVE

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the  
heavens and the earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations; and  
the desire of all nations shall come; The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly  
come to His temple; even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in;  
behold He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

12

## CHORUS

For unto us a child is born: unto us a Son is given; and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful; Counselor-  
lor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

18

## SOPRANO ARIA

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem.  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior; and He shall  
speak peace unto the heaven.

22

## CHORUS

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

23

## ALTO AIR

He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted  
with grief.

40

## BASS AIR

Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people  
imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take  
counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

44

## CHORUS

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this  
world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall  
reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

HALLELUJAH!

AMEN! AMEN!

---

## Officers of the Handel and Haydn Society

### President, COURTENAY GUILD

#### Vice-President

JOHN C. BRODHEAD

#### Treasurer

GEORGE M. BROOKS

#### Secretary

GEORGE F. HATCH

#### Librarian

GEORGE E. BANKS

#### Directors

SAMUEL ADELMAN  
EDWARD P. BOYNTON  
JAMES T. GEARON  
JOHN W. HALL

SETH C. HOWARD  
JOHN S. RUSSELL  
PAUL SPAIN  
WARREN S. SUMINSBEY

DANIEL M. GUINEY (acting for MR. RUSSELL)

#### Business Agent

ANITA DAVIS-CHASE



# CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

By John Sebastian Bach

## PART I

1

### CHORUS

Shout exaltation and praise your salvation,  
Shout and be joyful:  
Sing, for today your Redeemer is born;  
Cease to be fearful; forget lamentation;  
Haste with thanksgiving to greet this glad morn.  
Come, let us worship and fall down before him.  
Let us with voices united adore him.

2

### TENOR RECITATIVE

Now it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

3

### ALTO RECITATIVE

See now the bridegroom.

4

### ALTO AIR

Prepare thyself, Zion.

5

### CHORALE

How shall I fitly meet Thee, and give Thee welcome due;  
The nations long to greet Thee, and I would greet Thee too.  
O fount of light shine brightly upon my darkened heart,  
That I may serve Thee rightly and know Thee as Thou art.

6

### TENOR RECITATIVE

And she brought forth her first-born Son, and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

7

### CHORALE AND BASS RECITATIVE

For us to earth he cometh poor, our redemption to secure.  
Who rightly can the love declare that fills our tender Savior's breast?  
Yea, who can understand or share His grief for man by sin oppressed?  
And rich in heaven to make us stand, Himself the Son of God will give,  
That we may be redeemed and live.  
All numbered with his angel band, So now for this as man behold Him born.  
Kyrie Eleison.

8

### BASS ARIA

Mighty Lord and King of glories.

9

### CHORALE

Ah dearest Jesu, holy child, make Thee a bed soft, undefiled, within my heart  
and there recline.  
And keep that chamber ever Thine.

## PART II

10

### Symphony

11

### TENOR RECITATIVE

And there were shepherds.

12

### CHORALE

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright but hear the angel's warning.  
This child now weak in infancy our confidence and joy shall be.  
The power of Satan breaking; our peace eternal making.

13

TENOR AND SOPRANO RECITATIVE

And the angel said unto them.

16

TENOR RECITATIVE

And this is the sign to you; ye shall find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

18

BASS RECITATIVE

O, haste ye then.

19

ALTO ARIA

Slumber, beloved.

20

TENOR RECITATIVE

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

21

CHORUS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on the earth unto men in whom He is well pleased.

22

BASS RECITATIVE

'Tis right that angels thus should sing,  
To us this day such joy doth bring;  
Come then our voices let us raise,  
And join with them in songs of praise.

23

CHORALE

With all Thy hosts, O, Lord, we sing,  
And thanks and praise to Thee we bring.  
For Thou, oh long expected guest  
Hast come at length to make us blest.

## THIS IS THE MONTH

By G. W. Chadwick

CHORUS

This is the month and this the happy morn  
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal king  
Of wedded maid and virgin mother born  
Our great redemption from above did bring;  
For so the holy sages once did sing,  
That He our deadly forfeit should release  
And with His Father work us a perpetual peace.

## BORN TODAY

By J. P. Sweelinck

CHORUS

Christ, the Lord, Nowell, Nowell, born today.  
The Savior hath now appeared, Alleluia, Alleluia, born today.  
Earth listening hears the angels sing;  
For joy the archangels shout: Nowell, Nowell, born today.  
Just men with gladness are saying:  
Glory to God, Glory in the highest, Alleluia, Nowell, Nowell.

---

## INTERMISSION

## Announcement

The Handel and Haydn Society will sing Verdi's "Requiem" and "Psalmus Hungaricus" by Kodaly on Sunday afternoon, April 6. The soloists will be Nanette Guilford, Merle Alcock, Paul Althouse and William Simonds.